

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. SENATORS' PROPOSAL TO TAX TELEVISION
EXPORTS

REF: VANCOUVER 798

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM VANCOUVER SUN AUGUST 4 EDITORIAL
ENTITLED, "WALLED IN", THE OTHER DAY, A LETTER SIGNED
BY 18 SENATORS, WAS SENT TO HENRY KISSINGER, THE U.S. SECRETARY
OF STATE.

"IT ASKED THAT MR. KISSINGER CONTACT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND
INDICATE THE UNITED STATES INTEREST IN PROCEEDING WITH IMMEDIATE
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF CANADIAN POLICIES ADVERSELY
AFFECTING U.S. BORDER BROADCASTING STATIONS' BEFORE OTTAWA
PROMULGATES BILL C-58....

" WHAT THE SENATORS SAY IS REASONABLE ENOUGH: WE CONTINUE TO
BELIEVE THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA SHOULD MAKE GOOD
FAITH EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE ADEQUATELY THE LEGITIMATE BROADCASTING
INTERESTS OF BOTH NATIONS. A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION CAN BE REACHED
WHICH TREATS BOTH SIDES FAIRLY.

"BOTH THEIR REQUEST TAKES ON AN ADDED DIMENSION BECAUSE OF THE
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SENATORS WHO CHOSE TO SIGN THE LETTER--THE HEAVYWEIGHTS OF CAPITOL

HILL...AND BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE LEGISLATIVE ACTION IF NOTHING COMES OF THEIR REQUEST...

"THERE IS..NO PARTICULAR REASON WHY CANADIANS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICAN BROADCASTERS.

BUT THE PROBLEM WITH TAKING THAT POSITION IS THAT THE COIN HAS ANOTHER SIDE. THERE IS NO PARTICULAR REASON WHY AMERICANS SHOULD BE EXCESSIVELY CONCERNED ABOUT CANADIAN BROADCASTERS- EITHER AND THAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION THE SENATORS PROPOSE...

" EVEN IF THE BILL WERE PASSED AS PROPOSED-REDUCING THE INCOME AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES AMERICAN PRODUCERS GET FROM CANADIAN SALES (BY IMPOSING AN EXPORT TAX)- IT WOULD HURT CANADIAN FILM AND RECORDING INDUSTRIES MORE, FOR SALES TO THE U.S. ARE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO CANADIAN PRODUCERS THAN SALES TO CANADA ARE TO AMERICAN PRODUCERS (THE BILL WOULD BAN THE IMPORT OF MOST FILMS AND SOUND RECORDINGS FROM CANADA).

"THUS A WALL BUILT TO KEEP THEM OUT BECOMES A WALL TO KEEP US IN. "WE SEE NO MERIT WHATSOEVER IN THE BILL THE SENATORS PROPOSE, ONLY DAMAGE TO BOTH COUNTRIES. BUT WE SEE LITTLE MERIT IN BILL C-58 EITHER, ONLY DAMAGE TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND WE ARE HARDLY SURPRISED AT THE SENATORS RESPONSE.

"WHAT DOES SURPRISE US IS THAT WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE YET THAT THE VASTLY GREATER DAMAGE TO CANADIAN WILL BE DONE BY CANADIAN LEGISLATION SUCH AS BILL C-58-- THE SHORT TERM DAMAGE THAT COMES FROM LIMITING FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND THE LONG-TERM DAMAGE FROM FORCING THE VARIED AND VITAL CULTURE OF THIS CANADA TO REST ON A PROTECTIONIST CRUTCH IT DOES NOT NEED.

"WE HOPE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE TO NEGOTIATE THE TRANS-BORDER BROADCASTING ISSUES, THAT IN THE END THE BILL WILL NOT BE PROMULGATED--NOT BECAUSE THE SENATORS HAVE BRANDISHED RETALIATORY LEGISLATION, BUT BECAUSE, VASTLY MORE THAT IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST, IT IS IN OURS." LUPPI

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